

REMARKS

Applicants thank Examiner Savani for the comments in the subject Patent Application and particularly the instructions in the Examiner's Note on page 3 of the final Office Action regarding amendments for Claims 14 and 17 to place these claims and their dependent claims in condition for allowance.

Applicants have sought to fully adopt and comply with the Examiner's Note and corresponding claim amendments. Accordingly, Applicants have canceled Claims 1-13, 23, and 24 to remove any other outstanding issues and advance prosecution towards allowance. Applicants believe that all remaining claims (Claims 14-22, and 25-27) are now in condition for allowance and Applicants respectfully request prompt notice of allowance be granted in the subject Patent Application.

This Amendment After Final Rejection merely seeks to cancel claims and seeks to adopt the Examiner's suggestions. Accordingly, this Amendment After Final Rejection should be entered without payment of Request for Continued Examination, 37 CFR 1.116 and MPEP 714.13. Should there be any question or concern, Applicants respectfully request the Examiner promptly contact Applicants' undersigned attorney to remedy any outstanding question or concern.

Claim Objections

The Office Action has objected to Claims 4-6 as being improper. Applicants have canceled Claims 4-6 rendering this objection moot.

35 U.S.C. § 112

The Office Action has rejected Claims 1 as being indefinite. Applicants have canceled Claim 1 rendering this rejection moot.

35 U.S.C. § 103

Stern et al.

The rejection of Claims 1-3, and 23 based on 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Stern et al., U.S. Patent 6,065,255, is respectfully traversed. Applicants have canceled Claims 1-3, and 23 rendering this rejection moot.

Stern et al. and Pater

The rejection of Claims 4-6, 14-16, 25, and 27 based on 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Stern et al. in view of Pater, U.S. Patent 4,353,466, is respectfully traversed. Applicants have canceled Claims 4-6. Applicants have adopted the recommendations of the Examiner's Note for Claim 14 and its respective dependents, Claims 15, 16, 25, and 27. Accordingly, this rejection is moot.

Stern et al. and Wagner et al.

The rejection of Claims 8, 9, 11, 17, 18, 20, 21, 24, and 26 based on 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Stern et al. in view of Wagner et al., U.S. Patent 5,164,020, is respectfully traversed. Applicants have canceled Claims 8, 9, 11, and 24. Applicants have adopted the recommendations of the Examiner's Note for Claim 17 and its respective dependents, Claims 18, 20, 21, and 26. Accordingly, this rejection is moot.

Stern et al. and Shingleton

The rejection of Claims 10 and 19 based on 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Stern et al. in view of Shingleton, U.S. Patent Application 2003/0070368, is respectfully traversed. Applicants have canceled Claim 10. Applicants have adopted the recommendations of the Examiner's Note for Claim 17 and its respective dependents, Claim 19. Accordingly, this rejection is moot.

Stern et al., Wagner et al., and Brody

The rejection of Claims 12 and 13 based on 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Stern et al. in view of Wagner et al. and in further view of Brody, U.S. Patent 4,180,958, is respectfully traversed. Applicants have canceled Claim 12. Applicants have adopted the recommendations of the Examiner's Note for Claim 17 and its respective dependents, Claim 22. Accordingly, this rejection is moot.

Stern et al., Wagner et al., and Maeder

The rejection of Claims 13 based on 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Stern et al. in view of Wagner et al. and in further view of Maeder, German patent

App. No.: 10/552,389

Attorney Docket No. SL1226

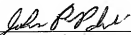
document DE20209892, is respectfully traversed. Applicants have canceled Claim 13. Accordingly, this rejection is moot.

CONCLUSION

For at least the above reasons, Applicants urge that all claims presented are in condition for allowance. Applicants respectfully request a notice of allowance in this case based on the claims as presented in this Amendment. Should any question arise or item remain outstanding, please contact Applicants' undersigned attorney.

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Respectfully submitted,



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